

A Paper on Illiteracy. Much in Little

(Continued From First Page.)

United States Commissioner of Education for 1904-05 gives the average length of terms of the public schools of the United States 144 days, or over 7 months. North Carolina is the shortest term of all—63 days. South Carolina is next with 70 days. Alabama has 75; Oklahoma with 74. There are 13 States that have a 4-month term or longer; 24 States that have 7 months or longer; 31 States that have a six-month term or longer. This includes Virginia; and Arkansas and Kentucky have nearly a six-month term. There are 41 States that have a five-month term or longer. This includes Virginia, 41 days; Louisiana, 46; Mississippi, 46; West Virginia, 46; Texas, 46; and Florida, 46 days, having a five-month term.

But the average length of school terms does not give a correct idea of the relative amount of education that is being actually received by the children of the different States. These figures show what the States are doing for their children in length of term, but the per cent of children that take advantage of these opportunities varies in the different States. Thus in North Carolina 61 per cent of the school population was enrolled in the public schools; in Kansas, where school attendance is compulsory, 97 per cent was enrolled. To compare what is being done in each State towards educating the children, we must take into consideration both the per cent of school population enrolled and the average number of days attended by each pupil. Thus in North Carolina the average number of days attended by each pupil enrolled was 39.2, 16.1 per cent of the whole school population attended for 30 days, this was equal to 23.5 days, if the whole school population had attended.

Making this comparison we find Massachusetts leading all the States in the amount of education its children are receiving. Seventy-two per cent of the school population of that State were enrolled and attended for 143.5 days. This is an average of 103 for the whole school population, and is over four times as much as North Carolina, 41 days. Ohio and California, 94 days; and Connecticut, 91 days, are doing very nearly four times as much as our State. Twenty-nine States are doing at least three times as much as North Carolina. Thirty-six States are doing at least twice as much as North Carolina. This includes Missouri, 60 days; West Virginia, 51 days; Tennessee, 51 days; Kentucky, 49 days; and Texas, 46 days; Arkansas and Oregon, 46 days; doing nearly twice as much as we. Virginia and Georgia lack only six days, Florida, days and Mississippi 9 days of doubling what we are doing. They do nearly three times as much as North Carolina in the matter of instruction, besides furnishing free text books.

THE CAUSE OF OUR INFERIOR SCHOOL SYSTEM.

If we compare the cost of the school system of all the States we shall find a vast relation between the expenditure for public schools and their efficiency. Looking first at the amount expended per pupil, we find the average for the United States to be \$3.40. This is next to the lowest, South Carolina spending only \$3.39 per pupil. Nevada leading with \$4.25, and California, \$4.20. Nevada is a sparsely settled State, and education is costly; but Massachusetts is not. It spends for education \$33.98 a year for every pupil, nearly ten times what North Carolina spends, though the wealth of Massachusetts is not six times the wealth of North Carolina. Of the Southern States, Maryland spends \$10.94; Missouri, \$13.22; Kentucky, \$12.75; Virginia, \$11.92; New Mexico, \$10.80 (all of these, three or four, and Maryland five times as much as we are spending). Florida, \$10.09; Louisiana, \$9.93; Oklahoma, \$9.41; Virginia, \$8.92; Texas, \$8.79; Arkansas, \$7.38, all these spending upon the children over twice what we are spending.

The average expenditure per capita for education in the United States in 1904-05 was \$2.50. The average expenditure in North Carolina was 46c; South Carolina next with 42c; then Alabama with 36c, Nevada leads with \$4.72; followed by Colorado, \$4.41; California, \$4.39; Maryland, \$4.31; Maryland, \$4.25; Missouri, \$4.20; Kentucky, \$4.17; Mississippi, \$4.13; Texas, \$4.12; Oklahoma and Virginia, \$4.07; Arkansas, \$4.03; New Mexico, \$3.96.

The amount of school tax for every adult male in the United States was \$952. The amount in North Carolina was \$12.13. This is the lowest of all the States and Territories except Oklahoma, \$2, though very little behind South Carolina, \$2.16, and Alabama, \$2.14. Iowa leads with \$15.06, followed by Massachusetts, \$14.61.

Other things being equal, such a density of population cost of living etc., the salaries of teachers is a good index of the efficiency of schools, and the estimation in which they are held by the people. In the report before alluded to in 43 States report salaries of teachers. Of these North Carolina pays the lowest salary, both to women and to men, averaging \$2.08 per month for the former and \$2.40 for the latter. The States not reporting are: West Virginia, Georgia, Alabama, South Dakota, New Mexico and Idaho. For women teachers \$2.08 per month; Kentucky, \$2.07; Arkansas, Louisiana and Tennessee between \$3.00 and \$3.50. Texas \$4.16; Arizona, \$4.15; New Jersey, \$4.14; teachers, \$7.15, and California \$7.10.

COMPARISON OF SCHOOL TAXES OF ALL THE STATES.

It is true that North Carolina is a poor commonwealth. It is true per capita valuation is only \$901, the lowest of all the States except Mississippi, \$352, and South Carolina, \$348. We cannot expect as large a school fund from North Carolina as from more wealthy States. But we can do as much in proportion to our means, and unless we are content to drop still further behind our sister States, we must do much more in proportion to our means than they do. Comparing the true valuation of the real and personal property of the States with the amount raised by taxation for school purposes, we find the average tax for the United States 22.4 cents for every hundred dollars worth of property. North Carolina's tax is 11.3 cents. Our State occupies the 43rd place, taxing itself for school purposes more heavily than only Wyoming, which pays 10.7 cents; Arizona 10.6 cents; Alabama 10.5 cents; Texas 9.7 cents; Nevada 8.5 cents; New Mexico 8.3 cents.

But in addition to that tax, which is nearly as large as ours, Alabama derives per capita income from permanent funds and rents from the land, and Texas, 38 per cent of its school money from the same source. The per capita wealth of Wyoming and Arizona is about \$3,000, so they do not need such a large tax. Nevada's per capita wealth is nearly \$4,000; and in Idaho it is \$4,000. It derives 60 per cent of its school funds from permanent investments. New Mexico alone is really spending less in proportion to its wealth than North Carolina, yet

school population were enrolled. Of this number only 61 per cent attended daily for the shortest time that the schools were open. In other words, only 35 per cent of those entitled to go to school availed themselves of the opportunity. It is right to levy a tax for schools, it must be because education is a public good. If it is a public good, the State has the right to demand, and should demand, that every child be educated. A parent has no right to say whether his child shall be educated or not. There is no time when the parent has the power of life and death over his child, but the State has the right to demand that education be given to the child that the State not only should provide for but should guarantee in spite of careless or unnatural parents, and moreover, it is essential to the welfare of the State for its citizens to be intelligent.

Already nearly all the most intelligent and Statesmen set upon this principle. Among the European States having compulsory education laws are: England, Sweden, France, Germany, Norway and Sweden, the Austrian empire, Switzerland and Italy. Many of the British colonies in America and Australia, and 29 States in the American Union have such laws. Sixteen of these States have had them for twenty years or more.

The facts in regard to our State are not encouraging to know or pleasant to narrate. We would not tell them in Gath nor publish them in the streets of Askelon. But they exist; and it is the duty of North Carolinians to face them. Shutting our eyes to the facts will not remove them. Realizing North Carolina's position in the sisterhood of States, let us earnestly strive to remove the stigma that is upon her.

SENATORS ELECTED.

Result of Balloting in a Number of States—Familiar Names in the List of Those Returned.

Fairbanks Elected U. S. Senator.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Jan. 19.—In the House and Senate today Charles W. Fairbanks was elected United States Senator. D. W. Voorhees was put in nomination by the Democrats, Leroy Templeton by the Populists and Fairbanks by the Republicans. In the House Fairbanks was severely criticized by the Democrats, who called him a millionaire representative of corporations. The vote in the House was: Fairbanks 33, Voorhees 10, Templeton 1.

In the Senate the same programme was carried out. Fairbanks receiving a majority of the votes cast.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Jan. 19.—The Senate and House balloted separately at noon for United States Senator. The result was: Fairbanks, 20; Voorhees, 10; Templeton, 1. Mr. Jones was re-elected by an overwhelming majority. The ten Populists cast their votes for J. H. Sovereign, and the three Republicans for Gen. Powell Clayton.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Jan. 19.—Senator Henry M. Teller was today re-elected United States Senator in both houses of the General Assembly, the vote being non-partisan and almost unanimous. Nominating speeches were made by the Democrats, who called him a millionaire representative of corporations. The vote in the House was: Teller 34, Voorhees 10, Templeton 1.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Jan. 19.—Senator Henry M. Teller was today re-elected United States Senator in both houses of the General Assembly, the vote being non-partisan and almost unanimous. Nominating speeches were made by the Democrats, who called him a millionaire representative of corporations. The vote in the House was: Teller 34, Voorhees 10, Templeton 1.

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